

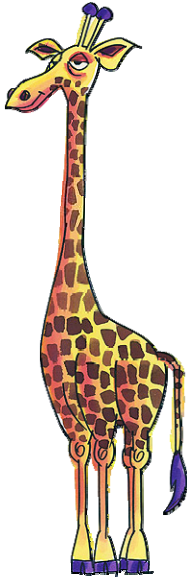


4-H CHARACTER CONNECTIONS

A 4-H Citizenship Newsletter

March 2010

What are you doing?



Have a Party-with-a-Purpose!

One of the top new trends is socializing among kids is having a party to support a worthy cause, or "Party with a Purpose."

Kids all over are forgoing personal gifts in favor of donations for their favorite charity. Some host dances, bar-be-cues or swimming parties and ask

guests to bring a donation to support a special need. Whether it is to help the Haitian Relief Fund, the Cancer Society or the local Food Bank, party-goers are eager to help.

Often these events are learning experiences as well, featuring costumes,

foods and activities along a theme. Guests participate and learn more about the cause.

Here are some great ideas: Pet Party for your local animal shelter, Supermarket Scavenger Hunt for a Food Bank, or Tree Planting Party for a local park.

WINDOW BOX

How's your Moral Compass?

Stick your neck out!

Are you satisfied with the ho-hum rituals that go along with putting up with less-than-acceptable behavior from others?

Do you ever stop and think, "Boy if I could just change this, life would be so much better!"

Have you ever spent so much time caught up in someone else's drama that you missed a chance to make a difference?

Be a Giraffe! Check out this website for great ideas on being a true hero: <http://www.giraffe.org/>

What is a "moral compass?" Dictionary.com defines it as: *anything which serves to guide a person's decisions based on morals or virtues.*

It is more than just knowing the difference between right and wrong. It's about social responsibility and taking responsibility for your own actions.

Recognizing that we make choices and are responsible for our own behavior is part of ethical decision-

making. When we make choices that improve the world around us, we are living an ethical life.

Instead of *reacting* to the challenges that face us, taking charge by *acting* in positive ways gives us a better sense of control of our lives. And by expecting quality from those around us, we lift ourselves and others to new heights of self-esteem and success.

Where is your compass leading you?



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Be the Change!

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is an act of compassion to lend a hand in time of need, but sometimes we need to push up our sleeves and dig down if we want to bring about the change required to end the need entirely.

What can you do to make change happen in your community? Pick one thing that stirs your soul and think about what you can do to help. Your passion will spread to others as they see your example.

People are really wonderful that way! Don't you think?

Responsibility Cryptogram!

"A lot of growing up takes place between "It fell" and "I dropped it." ---Unknown

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Responsibility Inventory

Self-reflection is essential to character development.

On a scale of 1—10, how would you rate yourself on the questions below? A "1" means the statement isn't at all like you, while a "10" describes you perfectly. Consider each statement carefully.

- _____ When I say I will do something, I follow through.
- _____ I turn in my assignments on time.
- _____ I do not forget things at home.

- _____ I get to school on time.
- _____ I obey the school's rules.
- _____ I take good care of my personal property.
- _____ I take even better care of property that is not my own.
- _____ I admit my mistakes without making excuses.
- _____ I follow the instructions of adults.
- _____ I do not give up easily when faced with a challenge.
- _____ I finish my home-

work and responsibilities before relaxing or playing games.

_____ I try hard in school and other extra-curricular activities.

Results:
 The two statements with lowest rank are: _____

To improve in these areas, I plan to:

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